

Microdata Entry Page

The Microdata web pages provide comprehensive information about microdata produced by the ABS. Click on the links to the left to find out what datasets are available and how microdata have been used. Click on the links below to find out more about the modes of access and to apply for access.

CURF

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are files of responses to ABS surveys containing very detailed data while also protecting the confidentiality of individuals.

RADL

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is a secure online data query service that interrogates the CURF microdata. This service is for approved clients.

ABSDL

ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is the data analysis solution for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. This service is available from all ABS sites around Australia.

TableBuilder

TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables and graphs using detailed ABS microdata. Clients can build, customise, save and export their own tables and graphs in TableBuilder.

DataAnalyser

DataAnalyser is an online tool for analysing ABS microdata. Clients can undertake regression analyses, create new variables, produce confidentialised summary tables and scatterplots and use in-depth analysis techniques in DataAnalyser.

MiCRO

Register, apply, review and manage your approved CURF microdata access from here.

This page last updated 27 June 2013

Microdata prices

Microdata access is priced in accordance with ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines.

Format	Prices (incl. GST)
TableBuilder	
TableBuilder dataset	\$925 per organisation
TableBuilder Pro Census 2011 data	\$780 per individual \$10,345 per organisation
TableBuilder Pro Census 2006 data	\$780 per individual
TableBuilder Basic Census 2011 and 2006 data	Free
Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs)	
Basic CURF or Expanded CURF	\$1,680 per organisation
Basic and Expanded CURF purchased concurrently (bundle)	\$2,525 per organisation
ABS Data Laboratory first session (3.5 hours or part thereof)	\$2,820 per first session
Additional ABS Data Laboratory sessions (3.5 hours or part thereof)	\$605 per subsequent session
Specialist CURF prepared to client's data requirements	Price on application - contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au

How to Pay

An invoice will be mailed to the organisation following approval by ABS of the microdata application. Once payment is received, then access is granted.

Staff and students of universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement will not be invoiced. This is because Universities Australia has paid for access on behalf of participating universities.

Other Products and Services

Information Consultancy
Census products and services

Related Links

MiCRO - to apply for CURF products
Registration Centre - to apply for TableBuilder products and Census DataPacks
Access Modes and Levels of Detail - which Microdata product should I use?
Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) - for accessing Expanded CURFs
Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2011

This page last updated 30 January 2014

Access Modes and Levels of Detail

There are a number of different ways to access ABS Microdata. Depending on the complexity of your analysis and the required level of detail for data items, you can choose a product suitable for your needs.

- The Expected and available Microdata page shows the access modes available for each Microdata product
- Access to microdata products is charged. For information on prices and how to pay, see Microdata Prices.

Access mode	TableBuilder	DataAnalyser Coming soon!	Microdata Desktop Basic CURF	Microdata Remote Expanded CURF	Data Laboratory (Expanded or Specialist CURFs)
Media	Web	Web	CD-ROM	Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) accessed via web	On site at ABS offices
Statistical and programming knowledge required	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
Data level of detail	Most detailed	Most detailed	Less detailed	More detailed	More detailed
Benefits	<p>Customise own tables and graphs</p> <p>Output automatically confidentialised</p> <p>Tables saved and exported in CSV, Excel, SDMX, formats</p>	<p>Create summary tables and scatterplots</p> <p>Use range of analysis techniques available, eg linear robust, logistic binomial, multinomial, probit, poisson</p> <p>Output automatically confidentialised</p> <p>Tables saved and exported in CSV, PNG and TXT formats</p>	<p>Work on own computer</p> <p>Use statistical packages and versions installed on own computer</p>	<p>More detailed data analysis possible</p> <p>SAS, Stata and SPSS software provided within system</p> <p>Most output returned to client automatically</p>	<p>Complex data analysis possible without code restrictions</p> <p>SAS, Stata and SPSS software provided within system</p> <p>Additional software may be installed (additional fee applicable)</p>
Restrictions	<p>Charged product</p> <p>Users agree to Terms & Conditions of use</p> <p>Unit records remain with in ABS IT environment</p> <p>Restrictions apply to the nature of queries</p> <p>Internet access required</p>	<p>Charged product</p> <p>Users agree to Terms & Conditions of use</p> <p>Unit records remain with in ABS IT environment</p> <p>Restrictions apply to the nature of queries</p> <p>Internet access required</p>	<p>Charged product</p> <p>Users bound by legal undertaking</p>	<p>Charged product</p> <p>Users bound by legal undertaking</p> <p>Unit records remain within ABS IT environment</p> <p>Restrictions apply to the nature of queries, and to the nature and size of outputs</p> <p>Internet access required</p>	<p>Charged product</p> <p>Users bound by legal undertaking</p> <p>Unit records remain within ABS IT environment</p> <p>All output is manually cleared</p> <p>Only available on ABS premises</p>
How to apply for datasets	Register and apply in the Registration Centre	Coming soon!	Register and apply in MiCRO	Register and apply in MiCRO	Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au

Expected and available Microdata

EXPECTED MICRODATA

Title and Reference Period			Format	Expected
Microdata: Migrants Census Data Enhancement Integrated Dataset, 2011			TableBuilder	Feb 2014
Microdata: Education and Work, 2013			TableBuilder	Early 2014
Microdata: Household Energy Consumption, 2012	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF		Early 2014
Microdata: Work Related Training and Adult Learning, April 2013			TableBuilder	Early 2014
Microdata: Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012	Basic CURF		TableBuilder	Mid 2014
Microdata: Patient Experiences, 2011-12			TableBuilder	Mid 2014
Microdata: Personal Safety, 2012		Expanded CURF		Mid 2014
Microdata: Australian Health Survey, National Health Survey, 2011-12		Expanded CURF		Mid 2014
Microdata: Australian Health Survey, Nutrition and Physical Activity, 2011-12	Basic CURF			Mid 2014

AVAILABLE MICRODATA

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

Microdata: Adult Literacy and Life Skills, 2006, Second Edition	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Aspects of Literacy, 1996, Second Edition	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, 2006-2011			TableBuilder
Microdata: Australian Health Survey, National Health Survey, 2011-12			TableBuilder
Microdata: Australian Health Survey, Nutrition and Physical Activity, 2011-12			TableBuilder
Microdata: Australian Housing Survey, 1999	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Australian Housing Survey, 1994			Basic CURF
Microdata: Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-97	Basic CURF*	Expanded CURF	

B

Microdata: Barriers & Incentives and Retirement & Retirement Intentions, 2010-11			TableBuilder
Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database, 2006-07 to 2010-11		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database, 2004-05 to 2009-10		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Business Longitudinal Survey, 1994-95 to 1997-98	Basic CURF		

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C

Microdata: Census of Motor Vehicles, 2013			TableBuilder
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 2011	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	TableBuilder
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 2006	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	TableBuilder
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 2001	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 1996			Basic CURF
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 1991			Basic CURF
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 1986			Basic CURF
Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, 1981			Basic CURF
Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Nov 2010		Expanded CURF	TableBuilder
Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Jun 2011		Expanded CURF	TableBuilder
Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Jun 2008		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Child Care, Jun 2005		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Child Care, Jun 2002		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Child Care, Jun 1999	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Child Care, Mar 1996			Basic CURF*
Microdata: Child Care, Jun 1993			Basic CURF*
Microdata: Child Care Arrangements, 1984			Basic CURF*
Microdata: Community Engagement with Nature Conservation, 2011-12			TableBuilder
Microdata: Crime and Safety, 2005		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Crime and Safety, 2002		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Crime Victimisation, 2011-12			TableBuilder

Microdata: Crime Victimisation, 2010-11			TableBuilder
Microdata: Crime Victimisation, 2009-10		Expanded CURF	
* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation			
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D			
Microdata: Disability Ageing and Carers, 2009	Basic CURF		TableBuilder
Microdata: Disability Ageing and Carers, 2003	Basic CURF		TableBuilder
Microdata: Disability Ageing and Carers, 1998	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Domiciliary Services Victoria, 1986	Basic CURF*		
* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation			
E			
Microdata: Education and Training, 2009	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Education and Training, 2005	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Education and Training Experience, 1997	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education and Training Experience, 1993	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education and Training Experience, 1989	Basic CURF*		
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2012			TableBuilder
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2011	Basic CURF		TableBuilder
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2009	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2007	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2005	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2003	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education and Work, May 2001	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Education Training and Information Technology, 2001	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2012		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2010		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2006		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, 2000		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, April to July 2007		Expanded CURF	
* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation			
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F			
Microdata: Families in Australia, March to May 1992	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Family Characteristics, 2009-10		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Family Characteristics and Transitions, 2006-07		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Family Characteristics, 2003		Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Forms of Employment, Aug 1998	Basic CURF		
G			
Microdata: General Social Survey, 2010	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: General Social Survey, 2006	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: General Social Survey, 2002	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
H			
Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, 2009-10 Second Edition incl. Fiscal Incidence Study	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, 2003-04 Third Edition incl. Fiscal Incidence Study	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Household Expenditure, 1998-99, Third Edition incl. Fiscal Incidence Study	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Household Expenditure, 1993-94	Basic CURF*		
Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey, 1988-89, Second Edition	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Household Expenditure, 1984	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Household Expenditure, 1975-76	Basic CURF		
Microdata: Household Use of Information Technology, 2010-11			TableBuilder
* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation			
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I

Microdata: Income and Housing, 2011-12	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Income and Housing, 2007-08	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Income and Housing, 2005-06, Second Edition	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Income and Housing, 2005-06	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Income and Housing, 2002-03	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Income and Housing, 2000-01	Basic CURF*	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Income and Housing, 1997-98	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing, 1996-97	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing, 1995-96	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing, 1994-95	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing, 1981-82	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing Costs, 1999-2000	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing Costs and Amenities, 1990	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Income and Housing Costs and Amenities, 1986	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Innovation in Australian Business, 2003		Expanded CURF

* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation

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L

Microdata: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Nov 2007		Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2010	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2008	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2006	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Aug 2004	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Forms of Employment Survey, Nov 2008	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2012	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2010	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2008	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Feb 2006	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Labour Mobility, 1994	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Labour Mobility, 1991	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Labour Mobility, 1984	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Learning and Work, 2010-11		TableBuilder
Microdata: Longitudinal Labour Force, 2008-10		Expanded CURF

M

Microdata: Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2007	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, 1997	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, 2008-09		Expanded CURF
Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, 2007-08		Expanded CURF
Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, 2006-07		Expanded CURF
Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, 2005-06		Expanded CURF
Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, 2004-05		Expanded CURF

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N

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, 1994	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, State/Territory, 2004-05		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, State/Territory by ASGC Remoteness, 2004-05		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey Detailed State/Territory by Remoteness, 2008		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey State/Territory, 2008		Expanded CURF

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey State/Territory by ASGC Remoteness, 2008		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey State/Territory, 2002		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey State/Territory by ASGC Remoteness, 2002		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Health Indigenous, 2001		Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Health Survey, 2007-08	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Health Survey, 2004-05	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Health Survey, 2001	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: National Health Survey, 1995	Basic CURF	
Microdata: National Health Survey, 1989-90	Basic CURF	
Microdata: National Health Survey, 1983	Basic CURF*	
Microdata: National Health Survey, 1977-78	Basic CURF*	
Microdata: National Nutrition Survey, 1995	Basic CURF	

* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation

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P

Microdata: Participation in Selected Cultural Activities, 2010-11		TableBuilder
Microdata: Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, 2011-12	Expanded CURF	TableBuilder
Microdata: Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, 2009-10	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Patient Experiences in Australia, July 2009 to Dec 2009	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Personal Fraud, 2007	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Personal Safety Survey, 2005	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Nov 2011	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Nov 2005	Expanded CURF	
Microdata: Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, 2011-12	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF

R

Microdata: Rental Investors, Jun 1997	Basic CURF*	
Microdata: Rental Investors, Jun 1993	Basic CURF*	
Microdata: Rental Tenants, Apr 1994	Basic CURF	

* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation

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T

Microdata: Time Use, 2006	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Time Use, 1997	Basic CURF	Expanded CURF
Microdata: Time Use, 1992	Basic CURF	

V

Microdata: Voluntary Work, 2000	Basic CURF*	
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* Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for supporting documentation

W

Microdata: Women's Safety, 1996	Basic CURF	
Microdata: Work Related Injuries, 2009-10		Expanded CURF

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This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 4 February 2014

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides a range of products and services to universities. Participating Australian universities are listed on the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement participating universities web page.

Under the Agreement, staff and students are not individually invoiced for their use of the priced ABS products and services that are covered under the Agreement. This is because Universities Australia has paid for access on behalf of participating universities. Staff and students of these universities may use the products and services for the purposes of research, teaching and permitted commercial uses.

More information about the products and services provided by the Agreement and how to apply for access is provided below.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE AGREEMENT

TableBuilder

TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables from ABS Census or survey data. Starting with an empty table, data variables can be selected for cross-tabulation. Tables can be saved within TableBuilder or exported in CSV, Excel or SDMX format.

Census and survey data are split into separate online tools. For more information about these products, see:

TableBuilder - survey data

TableBuilder - Census data

ABS CURFs

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are released to authorised users for approved purposes of statistical analysis and research. Extensive information about CURFs is linked from the Microdata Entry Page, including:

- About CURF microdata
- How to apply for CURF microdata
- Expected and available microdata

ABSDL

Information about ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is provided on the About the ABS Data Laboratory web page. Under the current Agreement, each authorised user in a participating university may access the ABSDL for:

- three 3.5 hour user sessions
- use standard statistical analysis packages (SAS, SPSS or Stata)
- use Basic or Expanded ABS CURFs that users have already been approved to access.

Loading of other statistical packages or software, additional user sessions beyond the initial three, additional concurrent users, or creation of Specialist CURFs will incur additional charges outside the Agreement.

Statistics New Zealand Basic CURFs

Like the ABS, Statistics New Zealand releases CURFs to approved researchers. Under the Agreement, New Zealand Basic CURFs are available to Australian university researchers via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Access to Statistics New Zealand Basic CURFs is subject to approval by Statistics New Zealand. See ABS/SNZ reciprocal CURF access arrangements for information on how to apply for access to SNZ CURF Microdata.

Luxembourg Income Study

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a cross national data archive located in Luxembourg. The Agreement provides access to LIS data for Australian researchers. Access is subject to users registering to use LIS through signing an annual pledge and submitting this to LIS. For information about LIS, refer to the Luxembourg Income Study website.

PERMITTED COMMERCIAL USE UNDER THE AGREEMENT

Permitted Commercial Use includes:

- consultancy services for a third party, based on CURFs
- statistical and other reports and publications produced from CURFs, and

- teaching materials developed from CURFs.

Note that staff and students of participating universities when acting in a private capacity are not included in the Agreement. Secondary distribution of ABS CURFs or microdata is not a Permitted Commercial Use and is explicitly forbidden. Contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au if you are unsure if your proposed use of the products and services falls into the above categories.

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 19 June 2013

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement participating universities

The following universities participate in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement:

Australian Catholic University
Australian National University
Bond University
Central Queensland University
Charles Darwin University
Charles Sturt University
Curtin University of Technology
Deakin University
Edith Cowan University
Flinders University
Griffith University
James Cook University
La Trobe University
Macquarie University
Monash University
Murdoch University
Queensland University of Technology
RMIT University
Southern Cross University
Swinburne University of Technology
University of Adelaide
University of Ballarat
University of Canberra
University of Melbourne
University of New England
University of New South Wales (includes Australian Defence Force Academy)
University of Newcastle
University of Notre Dame
University of Queensland
University of South Australia
University of Southern Queensland
University of Sunshine Coast
University of Sydney
University of Tasmania
University of Technology, Sydney
University of Western Australia
University of Western Sydney
University of Wollongong
Victoria University

Related links:

[Frequently Asked Questions. Is my University part of the ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement?
Services for Universities](#)

This page last updated 4 July 2013

Microdata contacts

Each organisation approved to use microdata has appointed a Contact Officer to manage microdata use and liaise with the ABS on microdata matters. Your organisation's microdata Contact Officer is listed in MiCRO, the ABS' online CURF application system. If you are not a registered user and would like details of your organisation's Contact Officer, please contact Microdata Access Strategies.

Email: microdata.access@abs.gov.au

Phone: 02 6252 7714

Fax: 02 6252 8132

Address: Microdata Access Strategies
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 24 June 2013

About CURF Microdata



What is a CURF?

A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is a file of responses to ABS surveys or censuses that have had specific identifying information about persons and organisations confidentialised. CURFs contain the most detailed information available from the ABS.

Why is CURF Microdata confidentialised?

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires.

For more information on confidentiality, see the Confidentiality Information Series from the National Statistical Service web page.

How are microdata confidentialised?

The most basic of the techniques employed by the ABS involves removing all identifying information, such as names and addresses. Additionally, the data items that are most likely to enable identification of unit records are only released in broad categories. For example, while survey questionnaires may capture your home or business address, microdata may only be released at the State or Territory level.

For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent Disclosure' and 'Microdata' on our web page How the ABS keeps your information confidential.

How much does a CURF cost?

CURF Microdata access is priced in accordance with ABS Pricing Policy and Commonwealth Cost Recovery Guidelines. Access to CURFs is charged per organisation not per person. Additional users of CURFs within an organisation do not incur additional charges. For information on prices and how to pay, see Microdata prices.

How do I access the CURF?

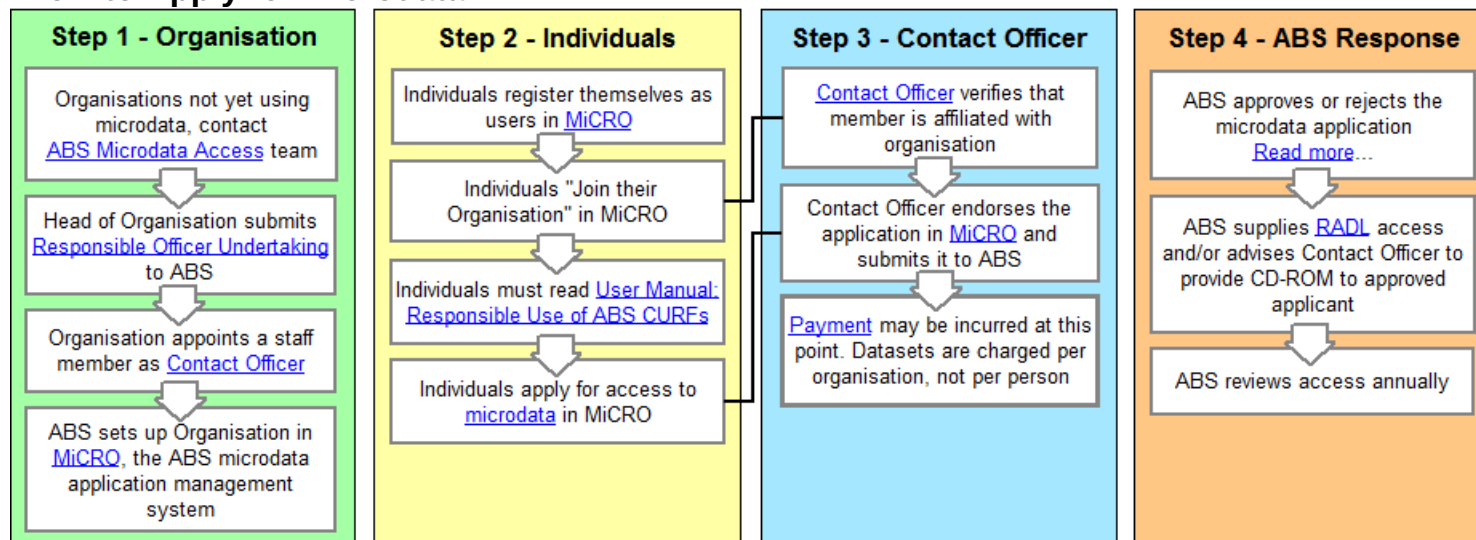
CURFs are available on CD-ROM for Basic CURFs or via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) for Expanded CURFs. Not all CURFs are available in both formats. For a full list of available datasets, see Expected and available Microdata.

A snapshot of the application process can be found on the How to Apply for CURF Microdata page. CURF applications are completed online using the ABS MiCRO system. Clients will be required to agree to terms and conditions of use before submitting applications.



This page first published 15 June 2011, last updated 24 June 2013

How to Apply for Microdata



For Census DataPacks or TableBuilder for Survey or Census apply through the Registration Centre.

CURF Undertaking

To enable access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS.

The CURF Undertaking is required by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination 1983 under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. This states that, prior to CURF release to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs.

The CURF Undertaking covers all members of the organisation and must be reviewed annually by the Responsible Officer.



[Undertaking By A Responsible Officer Of An Organisation .pdf](#)

Related Links

[Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?](#)

[CURF User Tool Kit](#)

[Contact Officer Tool Kit](#)

[Responsible Officer Tool Kit](#)

This page first published 4 December 2007, last updated 23 January 2014

CURF Tool Kits

CURF User Tool Kit

Use this Tool Kit for information about how to apply for CURFs and the responsibilities of CURF access



Contact Officer Tool Kit

Use this Tool Kit if you have been appointed by your organisation to be a CURF Contact Officer



CURF Responsible Officer Tool Kit

Use this Tool Kit if you are the person who will be signing the legal undertaking that enables CURF use in your organisation



This page first published 15 June 2011, last updated 8 February 2013



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Penalties for breaching the CURF

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User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data

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Remote Access Data Lab (RADL)

ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

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How should I use survey weights in my
model?

Guide to citing ABS Sources

Published Research Using CURF

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Contact Officer Tool Kit

Responsible Officer Tool Kit

This page last updated 8 February 2013

Contact Officer - Tool Kit



Contact Officer

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ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

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[CURF User Tool Kit](#)

[CURF Responsible Officer Tool Kit](#)

This page first published 3 October 2008, last updated 8 February 2013

Responsible Officer - Tool Kit



CURF Responsible Officer

My roles and responsibilities

Learn what it means to be a Responsible Officer

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Related links

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Contact Officer Tool Kit

This page last updated 8 February 2013

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)

[Access RADL](#)

What is the RADL?

The RADL is a secure online data query service that approved clients access via the ABS website. Within the RADL users submit queries in SAS, SPSS or Stata analytical languages against Expanded CURFs that are kept within the ABS environment. The results of the queries are automatically checked then made available to the users. Because the CURFs are kept within the ABS environment, the ABS is able to release more detailed CURFs in the RADL than are available on CD-ROM.

For further information about the type of restrictions put in place by the ABS, see the Rules and Restrictions for Use chapter of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Requirements of RADL access and assumed knowledge

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) users must:

- have been approved by ABS to use the CURF they wish to access in the RADL
- have familiarised themselves with the CURF documentation, including the Technical Manual and data item list relating to the CURF
- have read and understand the contents of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)
- be able to write programs in one of the analytical languages in RADL (SAS9.1, SPSS11.5 and Stata10). Note that the ABS does not provide a code advisory service so familiarity with SAS, SPSS or Stata is important
- know how to use an Internet browser
- be able to use a zip program (WinZip or equivalent programs).

Which CURFs are in the RADL?

All Expanded CURFs are available in the RADL. The Expected and available Microdata shows which CURFs are available in Basic and Expanded formats. The page also provides a links to the Technical and Information Papers for each CURF.

Getting started with the RADL

Information is available in the Getting Started with the RADL chapter of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

The ABS assumes users are experienced in SAS, SPSS or Stata for code creation and does not provide advice on coding problems. Log files can be used to determine problems in obtaining output. Further information is available in the RADL Help section of the RADL. If you encounter any problems accessing or using the RADL, email the RADL Administrator.

Related links

[MiCRO online microdata application system](#)
[About CURF microdata](#)

This page last updated 22 November 2013

About the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)

The ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is the data analysis solution for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. ABSDL provides an interactive environment, enabling the analysis of Basic, Expanded or Specialist (customised) Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). ABSDL provides a more responsive and interactive environment in which to analyse CURFs than that offered by the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Comparison of ABSDL and the RADL

	ABSDL	RADL
Access	On-site in all ABS Offices	Secure remote access via the ABS website
Content	Basic and Expanded CURFs, or a Specialist CURF customised to client's analysis requirements	Basic and Expanded CURFs
Analytical packages available	SAS9.3, SASEG, SPSS20 and Stata10. Other analytical packages may be able to be provided if requested.	SAS9.1, SPSS11.5 and Stata10
Functionality	Interactive. No automated protections of data within the ABSDL. In the ABSDL you can open and view the entire file, and undertake cross tabulations and other forms of analysis without automated restrictions. All outputs are vetted by ABS staff before release to clients to ensure confidentiality of respondents is protected. No internet access during sessions.	Batch mode system. A range of automated protections of the data ensure confidentiality of respondents. Some commands restricted or forbidden and you cannot view the entire file.
Availability	Sessions must be booked in advance if using Basic or Expanded CURFs. Several months may be required to produce Specialist CURFs required by clients.	Generally available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
Cost	Access sessions are fully cost recovered. See Microdata prices. Specialist CURFs or other client specific requirements are fully cost recovered. See below for further details	No charge beyond CURF price. See Microdata prices.

Pricing

The ABSDL service is provided on a fully cost recovered basis, with a one-off set up cost, and a per session cost. The costs includes preparation of the desktop PC, maintenance of the client's access to a CURF, as well as vetting of all output produced during the ABSDL session. Sessions are 3.5 hours or part thereof.

Loading of different analytical packages may incur additional costs.

Development of a Specialist CURF for use in the ABSDL is also cost recovered. As these are developed on a case-by-case basis the cost for Specialist CURFs may be considerable, depending on the client's data requirements.

Clients in universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement are entitled to a specified ABSDL service - for which there is no charge to the individual user. Information about this is provided on the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement web page.

More information

For further information please contact ABS Microdata Access Strategies at 02 6252 7714 or email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

This page last updated 23 October 2012

Published Research - Aspects of Literacy

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Aspects of Literacy CURF. The information has been provided by users of this CURF. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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This page lists publications that have used the Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns CURFs. The information has been provided by users of this CURF. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

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To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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This page first published 23 February 2007, last updated 13 September 2012

Published Research - Voluntary Work Survey

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Voluntary Work Survey CURF. The information has been provided by users of this CURF. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

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This page first published 23 February 2007, last updated 6 September 2012

CURF FAQs

About CURFs

How are microdata confidentialised?

What skills/software are required to use CURFs?

For what type of research can a CURF be used?

How much do CURFs cost?

Does ABS guarantee that CURF data and systems are free from errors?

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Do I need to apply to access a CURF that my organisation already has?

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What is meant by 'Statistical Purpose'?

Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?

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How long does the application process take?

Can I use CURFs in more than one organisation?

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

Is my university part of the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement?

Does the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement give me access to Luxembourg Income Study?

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - ABS/SNZ reciprocal CURF access arrangements

Can I use a CURF obtained under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement as the basis for applying for an ARC or NHMRC grant?

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Obligations, responsibilities and liability

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What is a RADL audit and will I be involved?

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How can a CURF be used?

Can I share CURFs with other people?

Can I share statistical output from a CURF

What is the ABS liability position regarding CURF Microdata?

Under what conditions is an Organisation provided with access to a CURF?

What are the limited licence provisions and what copyright information do I need to know?

How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?

Is there an Annual Renewal process for CURFs?

Tips for using CURFs

How should I use survey weights in my model?

How do I use Replicate Weights in STATA?

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - How is CURF data 'confidentialised'?

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are files from which all identifiers have been removed. Identifiers may include details such as names and addresses. In addition, it is generally necessary for the ABS to alter the records to prevent the identification of survey participants who have a rare mix of responses. All CURFs are thoroughly checked to ensure data has been confidentialised prior to their release.

For more information, see 'Avoiding Inadvertent Disclosure' and 'Microdata' on the ABS web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#) and the National Statistical Service Confidentiality Information Sheets. These sheets explain and provide advice on a range of issues around confidentialising data.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - For what type of research can a CURF be used?

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Our web page [Published Research Using CURF Microdata](#) provides many examples of what is possible.

Each ABS CURF has associated with it a technical manual or user guide which includes information on its microdata content, technical details and conditions of use.

Use of microdata is subject to a range of restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of survey respondents. See the [User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs](#) for clear instruction on these restrictions.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - Does the ABS guarantee that CURF data and systems are free from errors?

The ABS does not warrant that the CD-ROM or RADL Service or the information sourced from the Service is free from errors. The ABS will not be in any way liable for any loss, damage or injury suffered by You, or any other person consequent upon the use of the Service or the information sourced from the Service.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - What skills are required to use CURFs?

CURF data on CD-ROM and in Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is available in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats and can be loaded to various spreadsheets. If clients do not have knowledge of these applications, they are advised to seek guidance and expertise within their organisation prior to using the CURF data. Other software packages will be evaluated by the ABS for inclusion if there is sufficient user demand.

The individual data items have fixed positions within each record of the file. If there is more than one unit type on the file, the file will be organised hierarchically.

An extensive documentation file is provided for each CURF and includes a list of data items with their start positions and lengths, code values and category labels. The documentation also provides weighted and unweighted frequencies of each code value.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - How long will I have access to a CURF?

ABS requires that both an individual and their organisation be approved to access each CURF.

Individuals are approved to use CURFs until completion of the Statistical Purpose for which access was granted. Expanded CURFs are subject to an annual renewal process, for further information on this process please see 'Annual Renewal of CURF Access'. After twelve months, ABS will ask if the Expanded CURF is still required for the original statistical purpose. If the CURF is still required, but the purpose of the research changes, a new Statistical Purpose will need to be submitted to the ABS.

Please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au with your new Statistical Purpose if it has changed.

Organisations have access to CURFs in perpetuity - unless that approval is explicitly withdrawn by the ABS (for example, as the result of a breach of ABS terms and conditions of CURF access). This means that access to each CURF is purchased only once by each organisation, regardless of the number of individual users within the organisation approved to use it.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Annual Renewal of CURF Access

Each year ABS requires individuals to renew their access to Expanded CURFs. ABS also requires annual renewal of the CURF Undertaking from each organisation. Basic CURFs are not subject to an annual renewal process.

Both the renewal of Expanded CURFs and the renewal of the CURF Undertaking is a condition of CURF use that has been agreed by each organisation's Responsible Officer. These and the other conditions of use of CURFs are outlined in the CURF Undertaking.

Failure to complete annual renewal may result in the withdrawal of access to CURFs for individual users and/or the organisation.

It is the responsibility of all individual users to renew their access on the annual anniversary of their approval to access Expanded CURFs. Individual users will be asked to confirm that they still require use of the CURFs and if so, whether the statistical purpose for use of the CURF has changed.

Annual renewal time is a good opportunity for CURF users to provide ABS with citations for their published research that has included use of CURFs. This helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs. ABS publishes these citations on its Published Research Using CURF Microdata web pages so that others can share the benefits of the research.

Related links:

[Responsible Officer CURF Undertaking](#)
[Guide to citing ABS sources](#)

This page last updated 20 April 2012

The annual renewal process is currently under review, therefore the contents of this page may change in the future.

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do I need to apply to access a CURF that my organisation already has?

Yes. Each person who wishes to use a CURF must be individually approved by ABS to use it - even if the organisation already holds the CURF. To apply for access, see [How to apply for Microdata](#).

Provision of CURFs to those not personally approved by ABS is a breach of the legal Undertaking signed by your organisation's Responsible Officer. Where such breaches have occurred, the ABS applies any of a range of [Penalties for breaching the CURF Undertaking](#).

This page first published 7 April 2008, last updated 27 April 2012

CURF Undertaking

To enable access to CURFs, each organisation's Responsible Officer must submit a CURF Undertaking to the ABS.

The CURF Undertaking is required by Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination 1983 under the Census and Statistics Act 1905. This states that, prior to CURF release to an organisation, a Responsible Officer must undertake to ensure that the organisation will abide by the conditions of use of CURFs.

The CURF Undertaking covers all members of the organisation and is required to be re-submitted annually by the Responsible Officer.



[ABS CURF Undertaking.pdf](#)



[ABS CURF Undertaking.rtf](#)

Related Links

[Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?](#)

[CURF User Tool Kit](#)

This page first published 4 December 2007, last updated 2 December 2011

Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

Subsection 19 (3) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides that a person who fails to comply with the conditions outlined in the Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) Undertaking is guilty of an indictable offence, punishable on conviction by a fine of 120 penalty units (\$13,200) or imprisonment for two years, or both.

Individual CURF users are not required to sign an Undertaking. Rather, they are bound by the Undertaking signed by their organisation's Responsible Officer.

Additionally, under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement CURFs are provided for research, teaching and permitted commercial uses. Other uses are in breach of that Agreement.

If at any time, you are unsure about your organisation's compliance with the CURF Undertaking or with the terms and conditions of the ABS/Universities Agreement, please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Related links:

User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs
[Applying for CURF Microdata](#)

This page last updated 23 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Consultants and third party organisations

What is a consultant?

A consultant is a person who is undertaking research for another organisation (known by ABS as the third party organisation). Some consultants are university academics doing a research project for a government agency or other organisation. Other consultants are employed by professional firms undertaking research for government agencies or other organisations.

What is a third party organisation?

An organisation which has hired a consultant is the third party organisation. ABS is the first party organisation involved in CURF access and use. An approved CURF user's organisation is the second party organisation.

Can consultants use CURFs?

Yes, but only if the consultant and their own organisation (the second party organisation) are approved by the ABS to use the CURF.

The CURF application process for consultants is the same as for any other individual, except that the applicant must tell the ABS they are doing research for another organisation, and what outputs they will share with that organisation. ABS needs this information to ensure all those who need to access CURFs gain ABS approval.

Does the third party organisation need to be approved to use the CURF?

If people in the third party organisation will see or share CURF microdata with the consultant then each of those people, and their organisation, must be approved by ABS to access the CURF. For example, a collaborative project where both the consultant and the third party organisation are analysing the microdata would require both parties to be approved to access the CURF.

If people in the third party organisation will not see or share CURF microdata then they do not need to be approved to access the CURF. For example, if the consultant provides aggregated data to the third party, or provides a report with conclusions drawn from analysis of the CURF, then ABS does not require the third party organisation to be approved to access the CURF.

See also [About CURF Microdata](#)

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 24 June 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?

In a government department, the Responsible Officer must be a Secretary of Department or equivalent head of organisation, as agreed with the ABS. In practice this requires that a release to a Department or Authority must be signed by the Secretary of the Department or in the case of an Authority the equivalent Head of the Authority.

In a private sector organisation, the Responsible Officer must be someone who has the same legal responsibility for the actions of the organisation as a Departmental Secretary does for a Department. This will usually be someone with the status of CEO, Company Secretary or Managing Director.

In a University, the Responsible Officer must be a Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or University Registrar.

Related links

[CURF Responsible Officer Tool Kit](#)

[Organisations approved to use CURF Microdata](#)

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 15 November 2011

Organisations approved to use CURF Microdata

Listed below are organisations approved by ABS to use CURF Microdata. If your organisation is not listed and you would like to apply for CURFs, please contact ABS Microdata Access Strategies at microdata.access@abs.gov.au or (02) 6252 7714.

Organisation	
A.T. Kearney	NSW Department of Attorney General and Justice
ACT Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate	NSW Department of Education and Communities
ACT Economic Development Directorate	NSW Department of Family and Community Services (Ageing Disability and Home Care)
ACT Health Directorate	NSW Department of Family and Community Services (Housing)
Anglicare SA	NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Audience Data Solutions Pty Ltd	NSW Ministry of Health
Australian Bureau of Statistics	NSW Office of Communities
Australian Catholic University	NSW Treasury
Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority	National Cancer Control Initiative
Australian College of Mental Health Nurses	National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER)
Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU)	National Disability Services
Australian Development Strategies Pty Ltd	National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR)
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)	National Seniors Australia Ltd
Australian Institute of Criminology	ORIMA Research
Australian Institute of Family Studies	Parliamentary Budget Office
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Australian National University	Productivity Commission
Australian Social & Recreation Research Pty Ltd	Professional Opinions
Australian Sports Commission	Property Research Institute
Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute	Qld Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
Benchmark Analytics	Qld Department of Education, Training and Employment
Bohun Group	Qld Office of the Public Advocate
Bond University	Queensland Health
Boston Consulting Group	Queensland Treasury and Trade
Bugseye Pty Ltd	Queensland University of Technology
Central Queensland University (CQ)	RDA Research
Charles Darwin University	RMIT University
Charles Sturt University	Reserve Bank of Australia
Commonwealth Grants Commission	Rice Warner Actuaries
Coredata	SA Department for Communities and Social Inclusion
CSIRO	SA Department for Health and Ageing
Curtin University of Technology	SA Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy
David Chant Statistical Consultant	SVB Group Pty Ltd
Deakin University	Safe Work Australia
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Sargeant & Collins Pty Ltd
Demographers Workshop Pty Ltd, The	Singtel Optus
Department of Education	South Australian Centre for Economic Studies
Department of Employment	Southern Cross University
Department of Environment	Spectrum Analysis Australia Pty Ltd
Department of Social Services	Swinburne University of Technology
Department of Finance	Tas Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Health	Tas Department of Premier and Cabinet

Department of Human Services	Tas Department of Treasury and Finance
Department of Immigration and Border Protection	The Australia Institute
Department of Industry	Tourism Research Australia
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Treasury, The (Commonwealth)
Department of Parliamentary Services	Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Incorporated
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	University of Adelaide
Edith Cowan University	University of Auckland New Zealand
Energeia	University of Ballarat
Essential Services Commission of SA	University of Canberra
Fair Work Australia	University of Canterbury New Zealand
Flinders University	University of Melbourne
GE Capital	University of New England
Geoscience Australia	University of New South Wales
Grattan Institute	University of Newcastle
Griffith University	University of Otago New Zealand
Housing Industry Association (HIA)	University of Queensland
Human Services Training Advisory Council	University of South Australia
I-view	University of Southern Queensland
Industry Super Network	University of Sydney
Inspire Foundation	University of Tasmania
Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH)	University of Technology Sydney
Insurance Council of Australia	University of Sunshine Coast
James Cook University	University of Western Australia
KPMG	University of Western Sydney
Katrine Baghurst	University of Wollongong
Kelly Research	Victoria University
L.E.K. Consulting	Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)
La Trobe University	Vic Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Lincoln University New Zealand	Vic Department of Health
Living Social	Vic Department of Human Services
MDS Market Data Systems Pty Ltd	Vic Department of Premier and Cabinet
Macquarie University	Vic Department of Sustainability and Environment
Master Builders Australia	Vic Department of Transport Planning and Local Infrastructure
Melbourne City Research	Vic Department of Treasury and Finance
Mercurial Insights Pty Ltd	WA Department for Communities
Monash University	WA Department of Health
Monero Research Consulting	WA Department of Education Services
Municipal Association of Victoria	WA Disability Services Commission
Murdoch University	University of Notre Dame WA
NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research	University College London (UCL) Australia
NSW Commission for Children and Young People	

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can an individual apply for an ABS CURF?

Yes. An individual who is not associated with an organisation can apply for access to an ABS CURF.

ABS grants access to CURFs in accordance with requirements of Clause 7 of the *Statistics Determination 1983* under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. This does not require that a person be associated with an organisation, though in practice nearly all CURF users are members of an organisation.

The requirements of CURF access are shown in the CURF Undertaking.

To apply for access to ABS CURFs please visit the [How to Apply for Microdata](#) page.

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 15 November 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Can I use CURFs in more than one organisation?

Can I use CURFs in more than one organisation?

Yes, users may belong to multiple organisations. This may be on a permanent or temporary (i.e. when completing a consultancy for another organisation) basis.

Important tip - when you belong to multiple organisations and you wish to apply for microdata you need to ensure your default setting for '**Current Organisation**' in MiCRO is set to the appropriate one. To change your default organisation, click on the trading name and press '**Set as your Current Organisation**' before applying for microdata.

Please remember, upon leaving an organisation you need to deactivate your CURF access by pressing the '**Leave organisation**' button.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 1 September 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can overseas clients apply for an ABS CURF?

The ABS will not generally release CURF data to overseas applicants.

Currently the ABS has a Memorandum of Understanding between the ABS and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) for reciprocal CURF access arrangements, which allows access to ABS Basic and Expanded and SNZ Basic CURFs.

The ABS will consider, on a case-by-case basis, all other overseas applications to access CURFs.

To be considered, overseas applicants must fulfil two criteria:

1. they must generally be affiliated with an Australian university or government department, or their country's National Statistical Office (such as the US Census Bureau, Statistics New Zealand, Statistics Canada etc).
2. the study has to be demonstrably of use to Australia. Some examples of work meeting this criteria might include: producing international comparisons in an area of topical interest; an overseas organisation undertaking policy relevant work on behalf of Australia; methodological work that leads to improved data collection practices and methods in Australia; and research likely to result in Australia reviewing policy.

The ABS cannot guarantee that a CURF application from an overseas applicant will be approved. Release of CURFs to any organisation, Australian or otherwise, is always at the discretion of the Australian Statistician.

A list of National Statistical Offices can be accessed at www.census.gov/population/international/links/stat_int.html

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 24 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - What is meant by 'Statistical Purpose' on the application forms?

Clause 7 of the Statistics Determination 1983 allows the Australian Statistician to disclose microdata, in this case a CURF, in a manner not likely to enable the identification of the person or organisation to which the record relates and for statistical purposes only. The Statistics Determination requires that CURF information will be used only for statistical purposes.

Put simply, it is a legal requirement that applicants for CURF access supply a statistical purpose for their use of a CURF.

What is meant by statistical purpose?

The statement of statistical purpose need not be lengthy but should show that there is a clear objective to the analysis and demonstrate that access to the CURF is essential to be able to undertake that analysis. Statements such as 'academic research' or 'policy research' without further detail are not in themselves adequate descriptions of statistical purpose, and will not be approved by the ABS.

You must not match, reweight, link, merge, augment or any similar references unit files. Identifying individual records to produce very fine tabulations is also not permitted.

Examples of suitable statistical purposes include:

- estimation of population characteristics to provide indicators of financial literacy of Australian households
- statistical modelling of predictors and correlates of employment and work performance among those with carer responsibilities compared to persons without these responsibilities
- use of data as input to mathematical models to enable analysis of impacts of potential policy changes in the area of health insurance
- study the relationship between disability and labour market outcomes to target future employment programmes

ABS reserves the right to seek more information from applicants if it is not able to readily determine whether an application should be approved as supplied.

For further advice on statistical purpose contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Related links

For what type of research can a CURF be used?

Under what conditions is an Organisation provided with access to a CURF?

Can an individual apply for an ABS CURF?

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do supervisors need to fill in an Individual User Application & Undertaking form?

Yes. If in supervising a research project you will be examining unit record information from the CURF, you are required to apply and have approved a CURF access request.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement - Is my University part of the ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement?

All Australian universities currently participate in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement, see the list of universities in [ABS/Universities Australia participating universities](#).

For more information about Universities Australia, visit www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au or email contact@universitiesaustralia.edu.au.

New Zealand universities may also access Australian CURFs under the ABS and Stats New Zealand reciprocal CURF access arrangements.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 17 April 2013

CURF: Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - ABS/SNZ reciprocal CURF access arrangements

A Memorandum of Understanding between the ABS and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) allows access to ABS Basic and Expanded and SNZ Basic CURFs to researchers in universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement and the SNZ/CONZUL agreement. The SNZ Statistics for universities page provides more information about the New Zealand agreement.

Applying for access

An Australian university researcher seeking access to a New Zealand CURF must complete, submit and have approved a SNZ CURF Researcher Understanding. This Understanding will contain a statement to the effect that Australian researchers wishing to access New Zealand Basic CURFs will be bound by the access requirements of the Statistics Act as enacted in New Zealand (1975). See the SNZ Access to microdata web page for further information about applying for and using SNZ CURFs. New Zealand CURFs are available to Australian users on CD-ROM only.

A New Zealand university researcher seeking access to an Australian CURF should complete the standard ABS CURF application process on the ABS website. See the How to Apply for Microdata page. Access to Australian CURFs for New Zealand applicants is available in the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) only.

Terms and conditions

Breaching the terms and conditions of CURF access in either Australia or New Zealand may result in the imposition of penalties in both countries. Such penalties may include withdrawal of individual or organisational access to all SNZ and ABS CURFs.

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 15 November 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - Can I use CURFs obtained under the Agreement for an externally funded research project?

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement for 2009-11 includes use for research, teaching and permitted commercial uses. For more information see ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement..

If you are in any doubt as to whether your intended use of a CURF is authorised under the Agreement you must contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call (02) 6252 7714 before putting the CURF to that particular use.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Frequently Asked Questions. ABS/Universities Australia Agreement. Does the Agreement give me access to Luxembourg Income Study?

Yes. Access to the [Luxembourg Income Study](#) (LIS) is available as part of the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement.

LIS is a depository for anonymised household survey microdata provided by international agencies. The range of household income data surveys represented in LIS includes ABS Income and Housing Costs microdata. Microdata from all international collections included in LIS have been adjusted to provide income, demographic, labour market and expenditure information on three different levels: household, person and child. Almost all the microdata files in LIS cover multiple reference periods.

Access to LIS for researchers in universities is managed by LIS itself. For more information please consult the LIS via the website link provided above.

This page first published 12 September 2007, last updated 31 March 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement - Can I use a CURF obtained under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement as the basis for applying for an ARC or NHMRC grant?

Yes. As long as your university is a party to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement and the CURF will be used to support a pure research project funded by the ARC and/or the NHMRC.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 12 January 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Obligations of CURF Users

Access to ABS CURFs includes responsibilities and commitments on the part of the user and their organisation.

- Before applying for CURF access, applicants must read the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs and adhere to the obligations it describes regarding use of CURFs. This information is also available in the CURF application system, MiCRO.
- If an individual user leaves their organisation they must inform the ABS 10 working days prior to departure.

For information on penalties resulting from a breach of obligations in the CURF Application and Undertaking form see - Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

This page last updated 24 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Under what conditions is a CURF released?

CURFs are released at the discretion of the Australian Statistician after an intensive assessment process conducted by the ABS Micro-data Review Panel. CURFs may be released on CD-ROM, via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or through the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), depending on the level of detail provided in the file.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - For what type of research can a CURF be used?

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Our web page [Published Research Using CURF Microdata](#) provides many examples of what is possible.

Each ABS CURF has associated with it a technical manual or user guide which includes information on its microdata content, technical details and conditions of use.

Use of microdata is subject to a range of restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of survey respondents. See the [User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs](#) for clear instruction on these restrictions.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 February 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Can I share statistical output from a CURF?

Tables or other aggregated output (for example, averages, model parameters) released as 'general output' via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or developed as output by users of CD-ROM CURFs may be disclosed or disseminated by the user.

Certain output from RADL may be labelled as 'Keep Secure'. This classification requires that the output be treated as highly confidential at all times. 'Keep Secure' output includes any printouts of unit record information, as well as analytical output that has been designated as 'Keep Secure'.

RADL 'Keep Secure' output cannot be shared between users who do not have access to the source CURF, nor with users in other organisations whether or not they do have access to the CURF. Such output may be used in further analysis, but cannot be published.

All Analytical results labelled as 'Keep Secure', whether they include unit information or not, must be stored in a secure environment. All such printouts should be kept under lock and key, and electronic output must be stored in password protected systems.

RADL 'Keep Secure' printouts must be securely destroyed (ie shredded) when no longer needed, and analytical output (whether or not it includes unit record information) held in an intranet must be deleted. Deletion must happen in such a way that recovery is not possible by unauthorised people.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Under what conditions is an Organisation provided with access to a CURF?

Access to a CURF is granted to an organisation at the discretion of the Australian Statistician. A precondition of organisational access is that the Australian Statistician has been provided with a legally binding Undertaking setting out the Terms and Conditions under which the access is approved.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?

Information or data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics must be acknowledged responsibly whenever it is used. Citing, or referencing, is important for several reasons, including acknowledging that one has used the ideas, words or data of others. Accurately citing sources used also allows others to find and use the original information.

For information on how to cite CURFs please refer to [Guide to Citing ABS Sources](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a RADL audit and will I be involved?

Audits of jobs submitted to RADL are conducted throughout the year by the ABS. The purpose of these audits is to identify confidentiality issues within users' code, log or output files. These issues may arise through users failing to follow, accidentally or otherwise, restrictions or rules for using RADL.

For each job that is audited, the code, log and output files are manually inspected by ABS staff. If a confidentiality issue is identified, the user in question will be notified by email. Users are required to cooperate with any ABS audit directions in respect to their code and output.

Further information on restrictions and rules for RADL use can be found in the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) (cat. no. 1406.0.55.002).

It is also a requirement that individual users comply with requirements specified in the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs (cat. no. 1406.0.55.003).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a Compliance Audit?

CURF microdata Users should be aware that their organisation's Responsible Officer has signed an Undertaking specifying that ABS officers or their nominated representatives are allowed access to all necessary documents and information for the purposes of conducting a compliance audit concerning the observance of the terms and conditions under which information is disclosed by ABS.

This audit is undertaken periodically by the ABS with a number of organisations audited on each occasion. The auditors will visit to discuss the organisation's internal arrangements for managing access to CURFs. As part of the visit the auditor will speak with CURF users about their understanding of the ABS conditions for CURF usage. The visit is also an opportunity for users to provide feedback to the ABS and to make suggestions for improvements to CURF data or associated procedures.

The audit does not generally involve checking data files or an organisation's IT systems.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, responsibilities and liability - Can I share CURFs with other people?

No. Access to CURFs can only be granted by the ABS and is granted on an individual basis only.

Unapproved individuals must not be given access to microdata as this is a serious breach of the CURF Undertaking signed by your organisation.

Any person who needs access to CURF microdata or to non-aggregated output produced from the CURF must apply and be approved by ABS before accessing the data. This includes members of your research project team who will see or use CURF microdata or non-aggregated output from the CURF.

Sanctions outlined in the Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking will be brought against organisations and individuals found to be sharing access to CURFs and/or unit record output with unapproved people.

This page first published 21 April 2008, last updated 28 February 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is the ABS liability position regarding CURF microdata?

Except to the extent that liability may not be lawfully excluded, the ABS:

a) makes no warranty as to the suitability or fitness of the CURF for a particular purpose, or quality, accuracy or merchantability of the CURF;

and

b) accepts no liability arising from the use of the CURF.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What are the limited licence provisions to use a CURF and what copyright information do I need to know?

Intellectual Property Rights in CURFs, including copyright in the CURF, are owned by the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the ABS. Copyright notices appearing on the CURF or on information displayed or printed by the CURF must not be removed.

An organisation using CURFs is granted a non exclusive, non transferable license by the ABS that allows Authorised Users to use the CURF for statistical purposes in accordance with the Undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer of the organisation.

Publication of data and analysis of the CURF must cite the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the source of the data and include a prominently displayed notice that the results or views expressed are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the ABS. More information about citing CURFs in published output is available on the [How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?](#) section of the CURF FAQs page.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - Do I need to renew access to CURFs?

Yes, and no! Users of Expanded CURFs must renew their access annually with the ABS. The CURF Undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer on behalf of their organisation must also be renewed annually. However from 2011 ABS has removed the requirement for annual renewal of Basic CURFs.

For information about annual renewal please see the [Annual Renewal of CURF access web page](#).

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 20 April 2012

Frequently Asked Questions - Tips for using CURFs - How should I use survey weights in my model?

This note on using survey weights in modelling has been provided as a response to questions that have been asked by ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) clients regarding the use of weights in their models. It should be useful for those contemplating the use of survey weights in their models, and who would like to know how this might be accomplished.

Survey weights are most commonly used to produce estimates of aggregates, means, and quantiles for a population. The use of weights for more complex survey analysis is less clearcut. There is currently no one unified view by statisticians on if, and how, weights should be used when undertaking a modelling exercise.

The decision whether to use weights or not could have an effect on point estimates produced from the model, not only in terms of magnitude but possibly also in terms of sign and significance. Standard errors of these estimates will also differ in magnitude depending on whether weights are used. In general, use of survey weights in the model should lead to accurate point estimates. However, the standard errors of these estimates will not tend to be as accurate.

One approach that may help in partially addressing the issue of less accurate standard errors is to first normalize the weights. Normalizing of weights involves multiplying the weight of each person by a constant factor so that they add up to a desired value. For the purposes of survey analysis, it is common to normalize the weights to add up to the sample total. It is suggested that normalized weights be calculated at state level where possible due to the different sampling fractions that are used in each state.

State-level normalized weights can be calculated by multiplying the person weight of an individual within state h by the proportion of people in the state that were in the sample:

$$\tilde{w}_{i,h} = w_{i,h} \left(\frac{n_h}{N_h} \right)$$

where

$\tilde{w}_{i,h}$ is the normalized weight for unit i in state h

$w_{i,h}$ is the original person weight for unit i in state h

n_h is the sample total in state h

N_h is the population total in state h

Normalization using SAS, SPSS and Stata

Support for normalized weights in modelling varies for each of the different software packages available in the ABS RADL.

In SAS: When using the LOGISTIC or PHREG procedures, users may specify an option **/NORMALIZE** when using the **weight** statement. This will cause the weights specified by the **weight** statement to add to the total sample size. Note that this option does not necessarily produce normalized weights at state-level.

In SPSS: Minimal support for normalized weights.

In Stata: When producing some models, Stata will rescale the specified weights to add to the total sample size.

Useful references on the use of survey weights in modelling

The following references may assist your decision on whether or not to use survey weights for your particular purpose. They have been selected as an authoritative cross-section of discussion on the issue of using weights in models.

Chambers, R.L. and C.J. Skinner (eds.) (2003), **Analysis of Survey Data**, Chichester: Wiley.

DuMouchel, W.H. and G.J. Duncan, (1983) "Using Sample Survey Weights in Multiple Regression Analyses

of Stratified Samples", **Journal of the American Statistical Association**, Vol. 78, No. 383. (September), pp. 535-543.

Magee, L., Robb, A.L., and J. B. Burbidge, (1998), "On the use of sampling weights when estimating regression models with survey data", **Journal of Econometrics**, Volume 84, Issue 2 (June), Pages 251-27.1

Pfeffermann, D. (1993), "The Role of Sampling Weights When Modeling Survey Data", **International Statistical Review**, Vol. 61, No. 2. (August), pp. 317-337.

Pfeffermann, D (1996), "The Use of Sampling Weights for Survey Data Analysis", **Statistical Methods in Medical Research**, 5, pp. 239-261.

Skinner, C.J., Holt, D., and T.M.F Smith (1989), **Analysis of Complex Surveys**, Chichester: Wiley.

Winship, C., and L. Radbill (1994), "Sampling Weights and Regression Analysis." **Sociological Methods and Research** 23(2):230-257.

This page first published 27 September 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Tips for using CURFs - How do I use Replicate Weights in STATA?

It is not appropriate to use the bootstrap commands in RADL. To use bootstrap commands appropriately a user needs to be able to identify the primary selection units (PSU). In the case of ABS CURFs, all respondents in the same CD (Collection District) belong to the same PSU. However, grouping respondents into PSUs significantly increases the risk of a respondent being identified so the ABS cannot release this information. To enable researchers to produce accurate variance estimates, the ABS releases the replicate weights which take the sample design into consideration, as well as any other steps in the estimation process such as non-response adjustments.

For STATA users, the ABS has made available the user-supplied *svr* suite of commands to assist users in calculating standard errors using replicate weights. Users must first use *svrset* to set the key survey replication variables for use by the other *svr* commands.

The following parameters should be specified:

- Replication method is the delete-one jackknife: *svrset set meth jk1*
- Main analysis weight is usually the person weight: for example *svrset set pw FINWT* (or equivalent)
- Variables denoting the replicate weights need to be specified: for example *svrset set rw REPWT1-REPWT30* (or equivalent)
- Degrees of freedom for variance calculation are one less than the number of replicate weights: for example *svrset set dof 59* (or equivalent)

A useful summary of replicate weights is available in the STATA help documentation: http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/Library/replicate_weights.htm

This page first published 27 November 2009, last updated 20 April 2012

About TableBuilder



TableBuilder

TableBuilder Advanced product, Charges apply

TableBuilder Basic (Census) Intermediate product, Free

TableBuilder Pro (Census) Advanced product, Charges apply



TableBuilder is an online tool for creating tables and graphs from ABS microdata. Starting with an empty table, data variables can be selected for cross-tabulation. For available products and supporting documentation, see the Expected and available Microdata page.

Features include

- construct your own tables using data variables you select
- options to display counts, percentages and relative standard errors in your table
- select from categorical variables (eg state, age, sex)
- calculate means, medians and quantiles for continuous variables (eg income)
- create custom ranges from continuous variables
- create graphs using your customised tables
- save or export your tables as CSV, Excel or SDMX files.

Features available for Census 2006 and 2011 datasets

- create your own customised tables of up to 5 million cells
- create thematic maps and download them as PDF and KMZ files
- access all geographic areas, ranging from Statistical Area Level 1 to the whole of Australia
- create, save and share customised geographic areas and data items (recodes) with other users.

Help using TableBuilder

- User Manual: TableBuilder provides detailed information on how to build, customise, save and export tables and graphs.
- Expected and available Microdata page includes links to topic specific user manuals for each TableBuilder dataset

Help using Census 2006 and 2011 datasets in TableBuilder

- TableBuilder - user manual provides detailed information about using Census data to build, customise, save and export tables and graphs
- TableBuilder Tutorials
- Census Dictionary, 2011

For Census 2006 & 2011 datasets:

TableBuilder Basic & Pro

Login

For all other TableBuilder datasets:

TableBuilder

Login

Don't have access yet?
Register or Login
to Registration Centre

Related links

Expected and available Microdata
Microdata prices
Microdata contacts
TableBuilder Services and Support

This page first published 30 May 2011, last updated 6 February 2014

About DataAnalyser



DataAnalyser

NEW PRODUCT UNDER DEVELOPMENT!

DataAnalyser Advanced product, charges apply



DataAnalyser is an online tool, with a menu driven interface that enables clients to explore and analyse ABS microdata. An action list provides clients with a record of previous dataset transformations, manipulations and analyses undertaken. The regression output and diagnostics are confidentialised as they are produced, and can be saved to the client's own environment. For available products and supporting documentation, see the Expected and available Microdata page.

Features include

- subsetting the dataset for selected variables or records
- creating new categorical variables from existing variables
- undertaking exploratory data analysis such as producing confidentialised summary tables and side by side box plots
- undertaking a range of analysis techniques using families of models such as linear robust, logistic binomial, multinomial, probit and poisson regressions
- saving and exporting output in CSV, PNG and TXT formats.

Other microdata products you might be interested in:

The DataAnalyser complements other ABS microdata analysis tools already available, including:

- TableBuilder
- Census TableBuilder
- Basic and Expanded CURFs
- ABS Data Laboratory

Related Links

[Registration Centre homepage](#)

[Microdata Prices](#)

[Access modes and level of detail](#)

This page first published 19 July 2012, last updated 16 October 2013

TableBuilder Services and Support

Self-help support services

TableBuilder is a self-help product with online resources to assist you:

- Information about how to build and customise tables and graphs in TableBuilder is provided in the two User Manuals:
 - User Manual: TableBuilder for Census datasets, and
 - User Manual: TableBuilder for survey datasets.
- Frequently asked questions
- TableBuilder tutorials
- Topic specific user manuals for every TableBuilder dataset released, including lists of available data items on each dataset, are linked from the Expected and available Microdata page.

Table delivery

TableBuilder will:

- at the time a user's table is submitted, acknowledge receipt of the job
- provide a submitted table status update on the 'My Tables' screen
- deliver 80% of large tables within 1 working day
- reserve the right to restrict the number of large tables that can be submitted to the queue at any one time should the number adversely affect other users
- limit the number of concurrent users if necessary to optimise performance. Occasionally users may be asked to try again later if the system has a high volume of use.

TableBuilder help desk and further support

If you are not able to resolve your query through the self-help products available, contact 1300 135 070 or email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

If you would like further assistance with your table results, fill in an Information Consultancy request form. This is a charged service.

Applying for access to TableBuilder

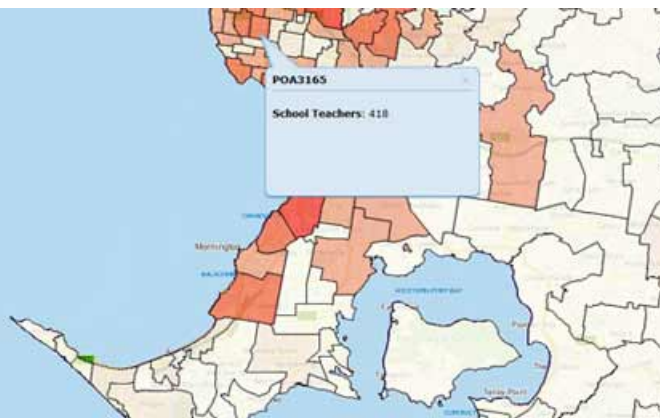
To apply for access to any of the TableBuilder datasets, you first need to register in the Registration Centre, and join your organisation. You can then log in to the Registration Centre at any time to apply for access to TableBuilder datasets. For further assistance with registering see the Registration basics page. All available TableBuilder products are listed in the Expected and available Microdata page.

Related links

[About TableBuilder](#)
[Microdata contacts](#)
[Microdata prices](#)
[Information Consultancy Services](#)
[Service Delivery Charter - Microdata access](#)

This page last updated 25 October 2013

TableBuilder – help & FAQs



Access

- [How do I register for TableBuilder?](#)
- [What is an individual licence?](#)
- [What is an organisational licence?](#)
- [How do I transfer a TableBuilder licence?](#)
- [If a licence is transferred to another person, will the custom groups and saved tables remain?](#)
- [How much does TableBuilder Pro cost?](#)
- [I have forgotten my password/User ID.](#)
- [I can't log in with my email address.](#)
- [I used to log in as a guest user in CDATA Online 2006. Can I do that in TableBuilder Basic?](#)
- [Can I share my login details with colleagues/friends so they can access ABS registered products?](#)
- [As a licensed user of a registered organisation is it OK to share access details with other members of the organisation who are not licensed users?](#)

Online help and training

- [What online help is available for TableBuilder?](#)
- [What online training is available for TableBuilder?](#)
- [Where is more help available?](#)

Functions and performance

- [What is the difference between Pro and Basic?](#)
- [I am having a technical problem with the Census website or a Census product, how do I report this?](#)
- [I keep getting error messages, or a Census product won't load correctly.](#)
- [What are the main functions I can perform in TableBuilder Basic and Pro?](#)
- [TableBuilder is timing out.](#)
- [What is the largest table I can construct in TableBuilder?](#)
- [When I submit a large table it isn't returned.](#)
- [What is the best way to reduce a large table?](#)
- [Why do I have dashes in my table?](#)
- [Why do I only have zeroes in my table?](#)
- [I can't retrieve my table - the Retrieve button is not working.](#)
- [I can't retrieve a map - Map View is not working](#)
- [What format can I download my tables in?](#)
- [What format can I download my maps in?](#)
- [What format can I download my graphs in?](#)
- [Exporting to Excel 2007 fails to run in Job Queue.](#)
- [Can I upload my table, graph or map back into TableBuilder?](#)
- [Some classifications are missing - for example, I can only see Australia, not the other geographic areas.](#)

Tables, classifications and data

- [How can I tell whether I'm using TableBuilder Basic or TableBuilder Pro databases?](#)
- [What geographic areas are available in TableBuilder?](#)
- [Does TableBuilder have 2001 Census data?](#)
- [What variables/classifications are available in TableBuilder?](#)
- [Can I build a table that shows where people live and work?](#)
- [Can I create my own classifications to use in a table?](#)
- [Is there a limit on the number of areas that can be included in my custom geographic area?](#)
- [Can I load a custom group into TableBuilder?](#)
- [How can I share my custom groups with my colleagues?](#)
- [Does TableBuilder provide time series data?](#)

- [Can I create medians, means and averages in TableBuilder?](#)
- [Have the data been made confidential?](#)
- [What are the non-mappable UCLs and SUA areas in TableBuilder?](#)
- [Differences in totals for ANCP Multi Response tables generated at different levels of Geography.](#)
- [Some classifications are missing - for example, I can only see Australia, not the other geographic areas.](#)

This page last updated 18 December 2013

Access

How do I register for TableBuilder?

To register visit the [Registration centre](#). Once you are registered you can subscribe to TableBuilder.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

What is an individual licence?

An individual licence is a licence for a Census product(s) that only you have access to. However, you may transfer your licence to someone else. To do this, log in to My account and click on the Transfer button in the Summary tab. If you have any problems you can call us on **1300 135 070**, or email us at client.services@abs.gov.au.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

What is an organisational licence?

An organisational licence is a licence for one or more Census products that can be used by members of an organisation.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

How do I transfer a TableBuilder licence?

Only individual TableBuilder Pro licences can be transferred to another registered user. However, you may transfer your licence to someone else. To do this, log in to My account and click on the Transfer button in the Summary tab. If you have any problems you can call us on **1300 135 070**, or email us at client.services@abs.gov.au.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

If a licence is transferred to another person, will the custom groups and saved tables remain?

No, the relinquishing user will need to download the tables as CSV files to save copies of the tables and custom groups before the licence is transferred. The new user will then be able to import the custom groups into their TableBuilder account from the CSV files.

Note: you cannot import a table back into TableBuilder.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

How much does TableBuilder Pro cost?

For information about individual and organisational licence pricing, see [Microdata Prices](#).

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

I have forgotten my password/User ID.

Select the Forgotten Password or User ID link on the Login page. You will need to remember your registered email address and your secret question and answer.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

I can't log in with my email address.

The User ID that is sent to you when you register for TableBuilder is numeric.

Note: email addresses are no longer used as IDs in TableBuilder.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

I used to log in as a guest user in CData Online 2006. Can I do that in TableBuilder Basic?

No, this feature is not available in TableBuilder Basic, but there is no charge to register to gain access.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

Can I share my login details with colleagues/friends so they can access ABS registered products?

No. Under the licensed user Terms and Conditions, you have agreed to ensure that your access details are not provided to another party. This applies to both individual and organisation licensed users. If a user is found to have breached this condition, individual and/or organisational licences may be revoked.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

As a licensed user of a registered organisation is it OK to share access details with other members of the organisation who are not licensed users?

No. All individuals within a registered organisation who desire access to ABS registered products are required to register separately as users from that organisation. Organisations who purchase an Organisational Licence are allowed an unlimited number of registered users as part of that licence. Under the licensed user Terms & Conditions, you have agreed to ensure that your access details are not provided to another party. If a user or organisation is found to have breached this condition, Individual and/or Organisational Licences may be revoked.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

Online help & training

What online help is available for TableBuilder?

The [Census Dictionary](#), 2011 (cat. no. 2901.0) provides detailed information on the geography and classifications.

TableBuilder User Manual

Access the comprehensive TableBuilder [User Manual](#) by clicking on the Online Help link at the right of the [TableBuilder](#) page. The manual contains:

- easy to follow steps for any action within TableBuilder
- a glossary of the classifications available in TableBuilder databases
- conceptual information for consideration when interpreting Census Data.

Help within TableBuilder

- When you are logged in to TableBuilder, you will see a question mark icon, which links to relevant help information for the current screen as well as links to further help information. You will also see information icons (a circle containing an i) in the table labels when a classification is added to a table. Click on them to see the 2011 Census Dictionary entry for more information about the classification. Note that i-links and help links open in a new window.
- When a table is created, annotations are added below as a footnote whenever a classification that requires further explanation is added to the table.

[Back to Help & FAQs](#)

What online training is available for TableBuilder?

Tutorials

Access online [tutorials](#) by clicking on the link at the right of the [TableBuilder](#) page.

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Where is more help available?

If you are unable to resolve your problem after checking these resources, please contact us by calling **1300 135 070**, or email us at client.services@abs.gov.au.

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Functions and performance

What is the difference between Pro and Basic?

On the [TableBuilder details](#) page there is a table outlining these differences.

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I am having a technical problem with the Census website/a Census product, how do I report this?

If you are having technical problems - for example logging in or registering, broken links or slow response times using a Census product - please use the [Report a technical problem form](#) to submit a report, or call us on 1300 135 070 between 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

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I keep getting error messages, or a Census product won't load correctly.

If you are using Internet Explorer 7 you are most likely experiencing compatibility issues. For example, TableBuilder Map View does not work in Internet Explorer 7. We suggest you update your Internet Explorer to a later version or try to load the webpage in an alternate browser e.g. Chrome, Firefox or Safari.

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What are the main functions I can perform in TableBuilder Basic and Pro?

In [Chapter 1](#) of the TableBuilder user manual you can see what's new for 2011 as well as all the other features of TableBuilder.

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TableBuilder is timing out.

TableBuilder will time out when no action has been taken for 30 minutes. Your session will end and you will lose any work that you have not saved.

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What is the largest table I can construct in TableBuilder?

TableBuilder Pro and Basic have a limit of 5 million cells in a table.

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When I submit a large table it isn't returned.

Large tables (over 5,000 cells) are sent to a queue for processing. The time it takes for the system to process and return your table will depend on the number of other tables in the queue ahead of yours. Please note, in extremely busy periods, your table could take 24 hours or more to process.

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What is the best way to reduce a large table?

Removing unwanted totals will reduce the size of your table as will removing any unnecessary categories such as Not Applicable.

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Why do I have dashes in my table?

If your table exceeds 5,000 cells it is moved into Large Table Mode. You will not see your full table in the screen and cells are filled with dashes. Once the table is processed your data will appear in the table.

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Why do I have only zeroes in my table?

If your table includes variables that have not been released yet in the database you are using, it will show zeroes.

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I can't retrieve my table – the Retrieve button is not working.

If your table exceeds 5,000 cells it is moved into Large Table Mode and you will need to use the Queue Job button to tabulate your table.

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I can't retrieve a map - Map View is not working

Map View does not always work in Internet Explorer 8. Use the browser Back arrow (at the top left of your screen in Internet Explorer 8), then click on Map View again. The map should now be generated.

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What format can I download my tables in?

Tables can be downloaded in the following file formats:

- Excel 2007 (.xlsx) and 2003 (.xls)
- Comma separated CSV (.csv)
- CSV single string (.csv)
- SDMX Structure Definition (.xml)
- SDMX Archive (.xml)

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What format can I download my maps in?

Maps can be downloaded in the following file formats:

- Adobe Acrobat PDF (.pdf)
- KMZ (.kmz)

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What format can I download my graphs in?

Graphs can be downloaded in the following file formats:

- Adobe Acrobat PDF (.pdf)
- PNG (.png)

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Exporting to Excel 2007 fails to run in Job Queue.

Press the View button in the job queue to reopen the table and then resubmit using a CSV file format that can be opened in Excel.

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Can I upload my table, graph or map back into TableBuilder?

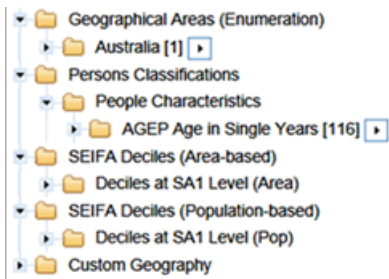
No, you can only save tables in TableBuilder and then open them in a later session. To re-open a map or graph in a later session you will need to save the table used to create the map, then when you access your account later, open the saved table and click on the Graph View tab or Map View tab to view them again.

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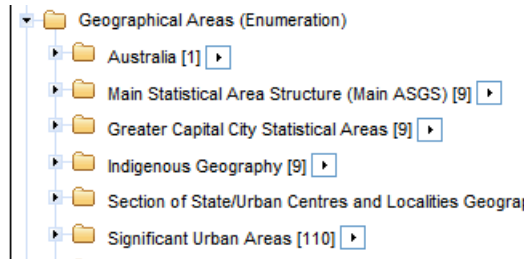
Some classifications are missing - for example, I can only see Australia, not the other geographic areas.

This sometimes occurs when using some versions of Internet Explorer (9, 10 and 11).

Example showing incomplete classifications:

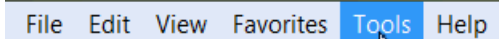


This is how the classifications should look:

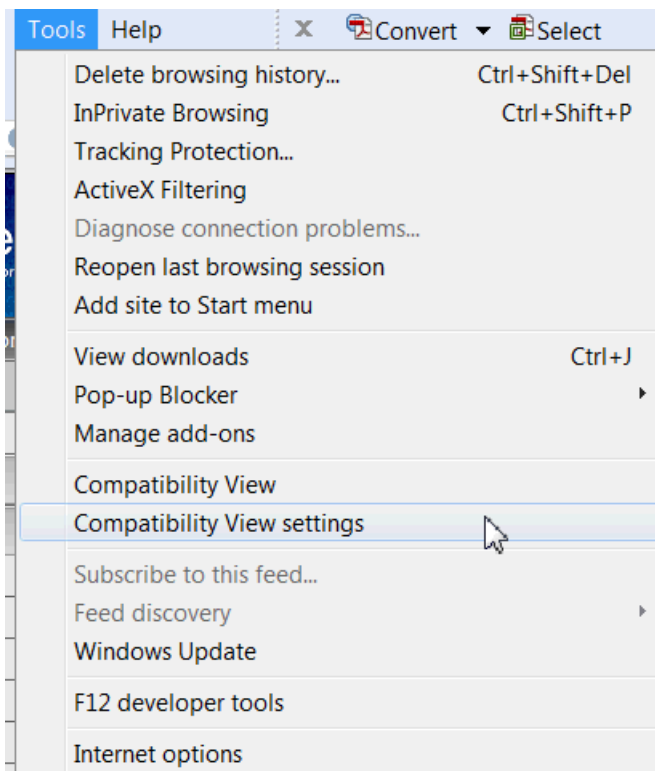


To see the missing classifications, follow these steps to enable Compatibility View in your browser.

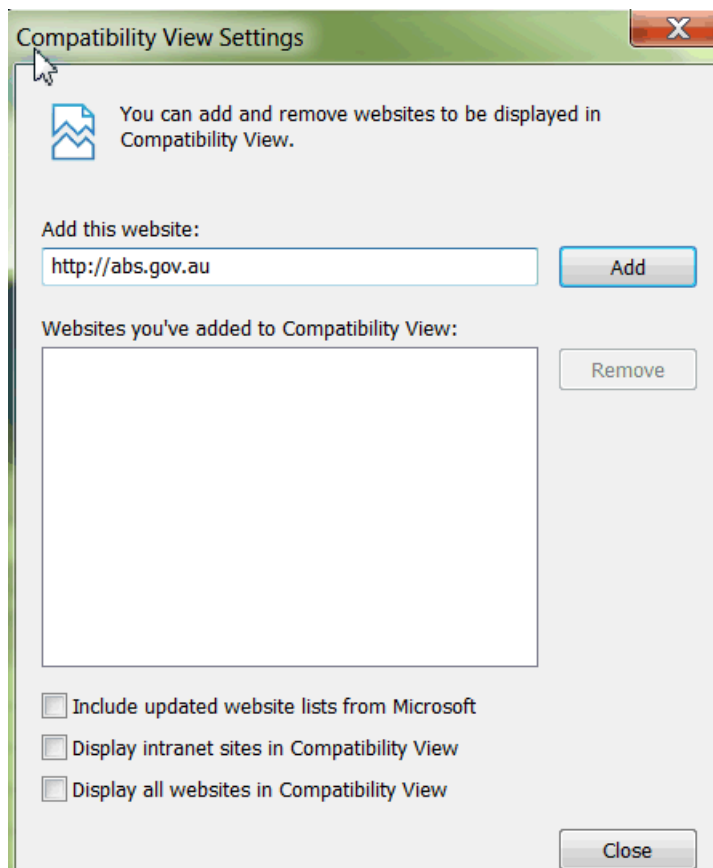
1. From the menu at the top of your screen (if you can't see the menu, press the Alt key), select Tools:



2. From the Tools menu, select Compatibility View settings:



3. Type <http://abs.gov.au> in the box 'Add this website' and click on the Add button, then the Close button.



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Tables, classifications & data

How can I tell whether I'm using TableBuilder Basic or TableBuilder Pro databases?

When you log in to TableBuilder and choose a database:

- if the database is topic based (for example, '2011 Census - Education and Qualifications') and has a limited set of classifications (for example, only geographical areas and educational qualifications classifications), it is a TableBuilder Basic database.

2011 Census - Education and Qualifications

2011 Census - Employment, Income and Unpaid Work

Database Name

- if it is based on method of count (for example, '2011 Census - Counting Families, Place of Usual Residence'), it is a TableBuilder Pro database.

2011 Census - Counting Families, Place of Usual Residence

2011 Census - Counting Dwellings, Place of Enumeration

Database Name

- Pre-defined topics (for example, '2011 Census Family Blending') can only be selected if you are using a TableBuilder Basic database.

2011 Census Dwelling Structure by Tenure Type

2011 Census Family Blending

Table Name

When you select 'Change Database' or 'Select Topic', if you have access to both TableBuilder Basic and TableBuilder Pro, you will be able to select databases from either.

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What geographic areas are available in TableBuilder?

All geographic areas as defined in the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\)](#) webpage, except Mesh Blocks.

See [Chapter 6](#) and [Appendix 10](#) in the *Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing – Products and Services, 2011* (cat. no. 2011.0.55.001).

Information about which geographic areas are available in each release:

First release

- Australia
- State/Territory
- Statistical Area Level 2-4
- Statistical Area Level 1
- Greater Capital City Area
- Indigenous Structure
- Statistical Local Area
- Local Government Area
- State Suburb
- Postal Area
- Commonwealth Electoral Division
- State Electoral Division
- Natural Resources Management Region
- Australian Drainage Division

Second release

- Significant Urban Area
- Section of State / Urban Centre and Localities Structure

Third release

- Remoteness Area.

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Does TableBuilder have 2001 Census data?

No.

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What variables/classifications are available in TableBuilder?

TableBuilder Basic data items: See [TableBuilder data & geography](#).

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Can I build a table that shows where people live and work?

Yes, the option is available in the '2006 Counting Persons, Place of Usual Residence' and '2011 Counting Employed Persons, Place of Work' databases in TableBuilder Pro.

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Can I create my own classifications to use in a table?

Using custom groups will give you the freedom to create your own geography or classification: see [Chapter 6](#), My custom data in the TableBuilder user manual.

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Is there a limit on the number of areas that can be included in my custom geographic area?

There is no limit on the number of areas that can be included. However, when you are editing very large quantities the system may become slow.

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Can I load a custom group into TableBuilder?

Yes: see 6.9, 'Import a custom data group into TableBuilder' in [Chapter 6](#), My custom data in the TableBuilder user manual.

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How can I share my custom groups with my colleagues?

TableBuilder now offers users the option to create their own custom groups that can be saved outside TableBuilder and then uploaded back into TableBuilder. For steps on how to do this, see Chapter 6 in the TableBuilder user manual.

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Does TableBuilder provide time series data?

No, using the Time Series Community Profile will offer you this information. The geography structures in the profile for 2001 and 2006 have been concorded to the 2011 boundaries for a better comparison of an area over time.

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Can I create medians, means and averages in TableBuilder?

No, but you can export the data into a spreadsheet to generate these formulas.

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Have the data been made confidential?

Yes. In accordance with the Census and Statistics Act 1905, no results will be released in a way that would enable particular individuals or households to be identified.

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What are the non-mappable UCLs and SUA areas in TableBuilder?

In TableBuilder the following geographies are non-mappable.

Data are available for the following areas.

Significant Urban Areas (SUA) the following areas are non-mappable areas:

- Not in any Significant Urban Area (NSW)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (VIC)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (QLD)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (SA)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (WA)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (TAS)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (NT)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (ACT)
- Not in any Significant Urban Area (OT)

Urban Centres and Localities Areas (UCL) the following are non-mappable areas:

- Remainder of State/Territory (NSW)
- Remainder of State/Territory (VIC)
- Remainder of State/Territory (QLD)
- Remainder of State/Territory (SA)
- Remainder of State/Territory (WA)
- Remainder of State/Territory (TAS)
- Remainder of State/Territory (NT)
- Remainder of State/Territory (ACT)
- Remainder of State/Territory (OT)

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Differences in totals for ANCP Multi Response tables generated at different levels of Geography.

TableBuilder applies an additivity routine to ensure tables add correctly to a grand total. However, this routine can only cater for one grand total per table. In the case of the ANCP multi response classification, the grand total generated is for total persons and not, total responses. Therefore, the responses will not have additivity applied.

When a table is generated with ANCP at a higher level of geography such as State, the total responses will not match the aggregated responses of lower levels such as SA1.

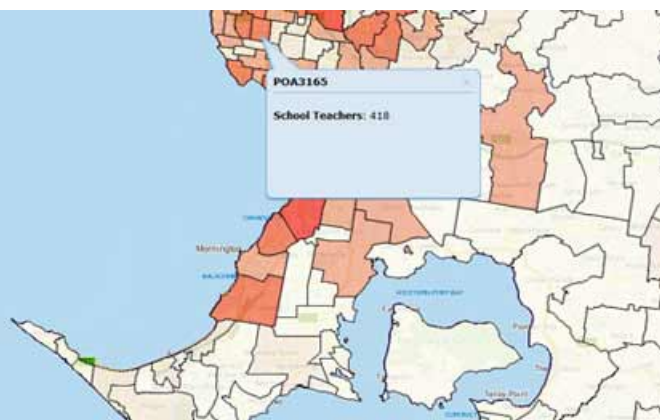
Caution is advised when using low level and aggregated ANCP data. The data is randomised but not additive for responses.

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[

TableBuilder tutorials

These tutorials are a guide on how to use TableBuilder



Tutorials

Getting started



video (5.9 MB)

[Getting started– Tutorial transcript 1](#)

Understanding the table view page



video (4.5 MB)

[Understanding the table view page – Tutorial transcript 2](#)

Working with tables



video (6.3 MB)

[Working with tables – Tutorial transcript 3](#)

Large tables



video (8.5 MB)

[Large tables – Tutorial transcript 4](#)

Map to group



video (4.9 MB)

[Map to group – Tutorial transcript 5](#)

Custom groups



video (7.3 MB)

[Custom groups – Tutorial transcript 6](#)

Graph view



video (3.7 MB)

[Graph view – Tutorial transcript 7](#)

Map view basics



video (8.4 MB)

[Map view basics – Tutorial transcript 8](#)

Please note From time to time additional functions are added to TableBuilder, so there may be some differences between what you see in the tutorials and what you see when you use TableBuilder.

This page last updated 8 July 2013